

Commander David J Varnes

CDR Varnes is a native of West Lafayette, Indiana. He graduated from Purdue University in 1989 with a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering and was commissioned an Ensign via the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC).

Following graduation and commissioning, he attended Flight School in Pensacola, Florida. CDR Varnes received his "wings of gold" in May of '91 and was subsequently assigned to Helicopter Combat Support Squadron One, San Diego, CA, the "Fleet Angels" (HC-1), flying the H-3 Sea King and where he served as a branch officer, HAZMAT officer and Quality Assurance Officer. Following the disestablishment of HC-1, CDR Varnes transitioned to fly the H-46 Sea Knight and was assigned to Helicopter Combat Support Squadron Five (HC-5), Guam, in 1994 where he deployed to the Persian Gulf. While at HC-5 he served in positions of Search and Rescue (SAR) and NATOPS Officer. Additionally, CDR Varnes' helicopter crew was selected as Regional Naval Helicopter Association Aircrew of the Year, Embarked. Between 1997 and 1999 CDR Varnes attended the Naval Post Graduate School where he received his Master's Degree in Aeronautical Engineering, Avionics. After his graduation from Post Graduate School, CDR Varnes completed his department head tour at Helicopter Combat Support Squadron Eight (HC-8) between 2000-2002 serving as detachment Officer in Charge as well as squadron Operations Officer. His post-department head tour was completed in 2004 at COMOPTEVFOR where he was the Fleet Liaison Scheduling Officer.

CDR Varnes most recently completed a tour as the Weapons Officer (Gun Boss) aboard USS Dwight D. Eisenhower. He assumed his current duties as Trident Warrior Director (N93) at NETWARCOM in November 2006.

CDR Varnes' military decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with gold star, Navy Commendation Medal with two gold stars, and the Navy Achievement Medal with gold star.